

Application No. 10/693,163

May 12, 2006

Amendment responsive to Office Action of February 13, 2006

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1-20 (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A method comprising:

obtaining an image and comparing the image to at least one stored image to identify one or more similar images wherein the at least one stored image is stored within an image database in association with at least one keyword;

producing at least one primary keyword based on the at least one keyword associated with the one or more similar images;

producing at least one finer scale keyword wherein each one of the at least one finer scale keyword is likely to occur in association with at least one of the at least one primary keyword, wherein the likelihood of any keyword occurring in association with another keyword is determined using keyword statistics, and wherein the keyword statistics are maintained within a database statistics module;

presenting the at least one primary keyword and the at least one finer scale keyword to a user and obtaining an accepted keyword from, ~~enabling the user to select at least one accepted keyword and~~ wherein any one of the at least one primary keyword or any one of the at least one finer scale keyword can be one of the at least one accepted keyword; and

storing the image within the image database and in association with the at least one accepted keyword and updating the keyword statistics.

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22. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 wherein image similarity is based on at least one factor and wherein one of the at least one factor is ~~the~~ a closeness in time of image acquisition.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein image similarity is based on at least one factor and wherein one of the at least one factor is determined using a content based image retrieval module.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein there are at least two primary keywords and further comprising:

determining a likelihood metric for each one of the at least two primary keywords wherein a keyword associated with a stored image is more probable if the stored image is more similar to the image; and

wherein the at least two primary keywords are presented to the user in order of descending probability.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 wherein there are at least two finer scale keywords and further comprising:

using the database statistics to determine a likelihood metric for each one of the at least two finer scale keywords ~~wherein the histogram count is an example of a likelihood metric~~; and

wherein the at least two finer scale keywords are presented to the user in descending order.

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26. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 wherein there are at least two primary keywords, wherein there are at least two finer scale keywords, and further comprising:

determining a likelihood metric for each one of the at least two primary keywords wherein a keyword associated with a stored image is more probable if the stored image is more similar to the image;

using the database statistics to determine a likelihood metric for each one of the at least two finer scale keywords ~~wherein the histogram count is an example of a likelihood metric~~; and

wherein the at least two primary keywords are presented to the user in order of descending probability and wherein the at least two finer scale keywords are presented to the user in descending order.

27. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 wherein there are at least two primary keywords, wherein there are at least two finer scale keywords, and further comprising:

determining a likelihood metric for each one of the at least two primary keywords wherein a keyword associated with a stored image is more probable if the stored image is more similar to the image;

using the database statistics to determine a likelihood metric for each one of the at least two finer scale keywords ~~wherein the histogram count is an example of a likelihood metric~~ and wherein the probability of each one of the at least two primary keywords effects the likelihood of each one of the at least two finer scale keywords; and

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wherein the at least two primary keywords are presented to the user in order of descending probability and wherein the at least two finer scale keywords are presented to the user in descending order.

28. (currently amended) A method comprising:

obtaining an image and comparing the image to at least one stored image to identify one or more similar images wherein the at least one stored image is stored within an image database in association with at least one keyword;

producing at least one primary keyword based on the at least one keyword associated with the one or more similar images;

producing at least one finer scale keyword wherein each one of the at least one finer scale keyword is likely to occur in association with at least one of the at least one primary keyword, wherein the likelihood of any keyword occurring in association with another keyword is determined using keyword statistics, and wherein the keyword statistics are stored within a database statistics module;

presenting the at least one primary keyword and the at least one finer scale keyword to a user;

enabling the user to enter at least one new keyword presenting a new keyword selection to the user wherein the user can use the new keyword selection to create a new keyword;

obtaining at least one accepted keyword from the user enabling the user to select at least one accepted keyword and wherein any one of the at least one primary keyword, the at least one new keyword, or the at least one finer scale keyword can be one of the at least one accepted keyword;

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storing the image within the image database and in association with the at least one accepted keyword.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein image similarity is based on at least one factor and wherein one of the at least one factor is the a closeness in time of image acquisition.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein image similarity is based on at least one factor and wherein one of the at least one factor is determined using a content based image retrieval module.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein there are at least two primary keywords and further comprising:

determining a likelihood metric for each one of the at least two primary keywords wherein a keyword associated with a stored image is more probable if the stored image is more similar to the image; and

wherein the at least two primary keywords are presented to the user in order of descending probability.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein there are at least two finer scale keywords and further comprising:

using the database statistics to determine a likelihood metric for each one of the at least two finer scale keywords ~~wherein the histogram count is an example of a likelihood metric~~; and

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wherein the at least two finer scale keywords are presented to the user in descending order.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein there are at least two primary keywords, wherein there are at least two finer scale keywords, and further comprising:

determining a likelihood metric for each one of the at least two primary keywords wherein a keyword associated with a stored image is more probable if the stored image is more similar to the image;

using the database statistics to determine a likelihood metric for each one of the at least two finer scale keywords ~~wherein the histogram count is an example of a likelihood metric~~; and

wherein the at least two primary keywords are presented to the user in order of descending probability and wherein the at least two finer scale keywords are presented to the user in descending order.

34. (currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein there are at least two primary keywords, wherein there are at least two finer scale keywords, and further comprising:

determining a likelihood metric for each one of the at least two primary keywords wherein a keyword associated with a stored image is more probable if the stored image is more similar to the image;

using the database statistics to determine a likelihood metric for each one of the at least two finer scale keywords ~~wherein the histogram count is an example of a likelihood metric and wherein the probability of each one of the at~~

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least two primary keywords effects the likelihood of each one of the at least two finer scale keywords; and

wherein the at least two primary keywords are presented to the user in order of descending probability and wherein the at least two finer scale keywords are presented to the user in descending order.

35. (currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein there are at least two primary keywords, wherein there are at least two finer scale keywords, and further comprising:

determining a likelihood metric for each one of the at least two primary keywords wherein a keyword associated with a stored image is more probable if the stored image is more similar to the image;

using the database statistics to determine a likelihood metric for each one of the at least two finer scale keywords wherein ~~the histogram count is an example of a likelihood metric and~~ wherein the probability of each one of the at least two primary keywords effects the likelihood of each one of the at least two finer scale keywords;

wherein the at least two primary keywords are presented to the user in order of descending probability and wherein the at least two finer scale keywords are presented to the user in descending order; and

wherein image similarity is based on at least two factors and wherein one of the at least two factors is the a closeness in time of image acquisition and wherein another one of the at least two factors is determined using a content based image retrieval module.

36. (cancelled)